

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claim:\*

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25. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein the addictive drug is an opioid and the corticosteroid receptor agonist is prednisolone.

REMARKS

The Claim Amendment

Applicant has added claim 25. Claim 25 recites a composition comprising an opioid and prednisolone. Support for this claim is found, e.g., on page 14, line 25 to page 15, line 7 and page 15, lines 17-32 of the specification.

The Restriction Requirement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for vacating the July 16, 2002 Restriction Requirement and issuing the November 22, 2002 Restriction Requirement based on the claims pending after entry of applicant's December 4, 2001 Supplemental Preliminary Amendment.

In the November 22, 2002 Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has stated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: Claims 2-4, 7-10, and 22-24, drawn to a method of treating an addictive disease comprising specific components; and

Group II: Claims 5-6, and 12-21 and 25\*\*, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition.

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\* An "Appendix of Amendments" is attached as Exhibit A showing the claim amendment.

\*\* Applicant believes that added claim 25 should be included in Group II because it is directed to a pharmaceutical composition.

The Examiner alleges that the groups are distinct because a substitute treatment may be used in the claimed method of treating an addictive disease.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, applicant elects the pharmaceutical composition claims of Group II (claims 5-6, 12-21 and 25) for initial substantive examination. Moreover, if applicant's elected claims directed to a pharmaceutical compound are found to be allowable, applicant will request rejoinder of Group I claims 2-4, 7-10 and 22-24 with those of Group II, if and when any of claims 5-6, 12-21 and 25 are found allowable.

The Examiner has also requested that applicant elect a single disclosed species for the following:

(1) a single specific disease or condition to be treated; and

(2) a single specific composition comprising a specified individual active compound to be employed in the treatment of the elected single specific disease or condition.

The Examiner alleges that claims 2-4, 7-10 and 22-23 are generic to a plurality of disclosed, patentably distinct species and diseases to be treated. In addition, the Examiner states that the species election must list all claims readable on the elected species.

In response, applicant elects the following species:

(1) opioid dependency; and  
(2) a pharmaceutical composition comprising an opioid and prednisolone.

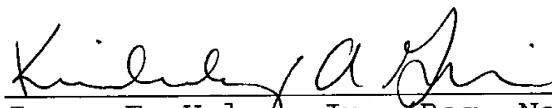
Claims 5-6 and 12 and 13, read on the elected species.

Applicant makes this election of Group II claims expressly without waiver of his rights to file for and obtain claims directed to the non-elected subject matter in

either divisional or continuing applications claiming priority and benefit herefrom.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference with applicant's representatives would assist the Examiner, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at any time. Applicant requests favorable consideration and early allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT A: APPENDIX OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

25. (New) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein the addictive drug is an opioid and the corticosteroid receptor agonist is prednisolone.